

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 14 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection - Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-13:

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,290,615 to Ogg (hereinafter Ogg). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Ogg fails to disclose all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

As discussed previously, Ogg only discloses a golf ball having a number of ridges which project from the spherical surface of the ball. The ridges are used to create a number of hexagonal structures on the surface of the ball.

Regardless of the arguments made by the Examiner, Ogg does not disclose a golf ball where at least some of the raised ridges do not contact raised ridges of adjacent non-circular shapes.

As is clearly shown in Ogg, the ridge structure 46 (upon which the Examiner is relying), is entirely continuous or integral over the entire surface of the ball. (See Figures 1 and 2). As such, the ridge structure 46 is completely continuous, such that instead of having a plurality of ridge structures, Ogg discloses a single, continuous ridge structure. Because of this, every raised ridge, on the Ogg ball, contacts every other raised ridge structure on the Ogg ball.

In fact, it is inappropriate for the Examiner to read the ridge structure 46, as anything more than simply a single ridge structure, which is not claimed in the present application. It is for at least this reason that the Examiner's rejection is without merit.

Further, not only does Ogg fail to disclose a golf ball where at least some of the raised ridges do not contact raised ridges of adjacent non-circular shapes, Ogg additionally fails to disclose a golf ball where "any" of the ridges on the ball do not make contact with "any" other ridges on the ball. Namely, because the ridge structure 46 is completely integral, every ridge 46 on the ball makes contact with every other ridge on the ball.

Moreover, Ogg fails to disclose any “independent” ridges.

The Examiner may consider that the hexagons 44a and pentagons 44b may be “independent” (see Fig. 9 of Ogg) because the center lines of the projections 40 are drawn. Please see the Fig. 9 of Ogg enclosed herewith. The center lines which we marked in the figure mean “apices 50” actually, which are explained in Fig. 6, particularly, Fig. 6A of Ogg. Therefore, a hexagon 44a or a pentagon 44b is connected to other shape through a projection 40 and thus the hexagon 44a or the pentagon 44b of Fig. 9 is not independent shape as well as the pattern of Fig. 1-4 of Ogg, which are different from the presently claimed invention, as set forth in claim 1.

For at least any of the above reasons, Ogg fails to anticipate claim 1. Likewise, this reference fails to anticipate dependent claims 2, 3, 5, and 8-13.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4, 6, and 7, are allowed.

Conclusion

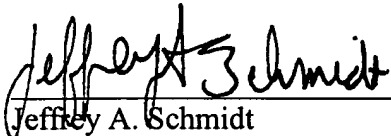
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln No. 10/734,243

Atty Dkt. No. Q78973

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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